

Senate begins d-2 work in Anchorage

With Senate d-2 hearings slated to begin in March, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff will kick-off proceedings by holding a seven-day workshop beginning next week in Anchorage.

According to Senator Henry Jackson (D.-Washington) who chairs the powerful Senate Committee, the main purpose of the staff workshop is to gain more precise knowledge about specific land uses, commodity values, and prospective users in each of the proposed areas potentially affected by d-2 legislation.

In a letter to invitees Jackson said: "The Committee requires this factual base of knowledge if the areas are to be designated and the boundaries drawn so as to complement the policy decisions the Committee will make in the mark-ups following the public hearings."

Although the workshops will be open to the public, Jackson urged organizations to send no more than one representative for each specific area in which the organization has an interest.

"The Committee seeks participants with 'on the ground' expertise, not necessarily spokespersons for the organization or those who would normally speak on behalf of the organization on the issues raised by, or the provisions of, the various d-2 lands proposals."

Jackson says he hopes to maintain a "give and take" atmos-

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phere during the workshops and will instruct moderators to identify each area in the region under discussion and then solicit the views of the participants as to the incidence and significance of resources in each area and the present and prospective uses of those resources.

The schedule of areas to be discussed during the seven-day workshop is: February 13, morning--Western Alaska; afternoon--Southeastern; February 14, Southwestern; February 15-16, Central; February 17, Northeastern; and February 20-21, Northwestern.

And the list of potential participants is as varied as the discussion schedule.

According to Janie Leask, executive vice president of AFN, invitational letters have gone to sports hunters, environmentalists, Native corporations, conservationists, and virtually anyone who has an interest in federal lands within Alaskan boundaries. Leask also said the Committee staff is stressing the fact no Senators will attend the workshop therefore eliminating the formality which accompanies official Congressional hearings.

The workshop will be held in Room 404 of the Alaska Bank of Commerce in Anchorage, and sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. each day.